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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 21 as indicated below.

A complete listing of all claims is presented below with insertions underlined (e.g., insertion), and deletions struckthrough or in double brackets (e.g., ~~deletion~~ or [[deletion]]):

1. (Previously Presented) A video recording system to record an external video data stream for a video program segment selected using an electronic program guide, the video recording system comprising:

a user interface that receives user input;

a video input interface that receives the external video data stream for the selected video program segment;

an interface connectable to at least one external rotating storage drive; and

a video data management system that:

uses the electronic program guide to select the video program segment in response to the user input;

recognizes connection of the at least one external rotating storage drive to the video recording system and subsequently identifies the at least one external rotating storage drive as available for video data storage;

uses the external video data stream for the video program segment to provide streaming video data;

routes at least a portion of the streaming video data to the at least one external rotating storage drive via the interface in order to record the external video data stream for the video program segment; and

receives at least a portion of a previously recorded video data stream from the at least one external rotating storage drive via the interface while continuing to record the external video data stream for the video program segment.

2. (Original) The video recording system of Claim 1 further comprising a set-top box that receives the external video data stream from a multiple-service operator.

3. (Original) The video recording system of Claim 2, wherein the set-top box comprises an internal rotating storage drive.

4. (Original) The video recording system of Claim 3, wherein the internal rotating storage drive is an internal hard disk drive comprising an IDE interface.

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5. (Original) The video recording system of Claim 1 further comprising a personal video recorder that receives the external video data stream.

6. (Original) The video recording system of Claim 5, wherein the personal video recorder comprises an internal rotating storage drive.

7. (Original) The video recording system of Claim 6, wherein the internal rotating storage drive is an internal hard disk drive comprising an IDE interface.

8. (Previously Presented) The video recording system of Claim 1, wherein the video data management system automatically recognizes connection of the at least one external rotating storage drive to the video recording system.

9. (Previously Presented) The video recording system of Claim 1, wherein the at least one external rotating storage drive comprises an external hard disk drive.

10. (Previously Presented) The video recording system of Claim 1, wherein the interface comprises an isochronous interface which is compatible with the IEEE 1394 standard.

11. (Original) The video recording system of Claim 1, wherein the external video data stream and streaming video data include video data and audio data.

12. (Original) The video recording system of Claim 1, wherein the video data management system further comprises a video data encoder that encodes at least a portion of the streaming video data.

13. (Original) The video recording system of Claim 1, wherein the video data management system further comprises a video data encrypter that encrypts at least a portion of the streaming video data.

14. (Previously Presented) The video recording system of Claim 1, wherein the video data management system comprises an internal rotating storage drive and routes at least a portion of the streaming video data to the internal rotating storage drive.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of enabling the recording of an external video data stream for a video program segment selected using an electronic program guide, the method comprising:

receiving user input by a video recording system that comprises an interface connectable to at least one external rotating storage drive;

receiving the external video data stream for the selected video program segment by the video recording system;

using the electronic program guide to select the video program segment in response to the user input;

recognizing connection of the at least one external rotating storage drive and subsequently identifying the at least one external rotating storage drive as available for video data storage;

using the external video data stream for the video program segment to provide streaming video data;

routing at least a portion of the streaming video data to the at least one external rotating storage drive via the interface in order to record the external video data stream for the video program segment; and

receiving at least a portion of a previously recorded video data stream from the at least one external rotating storage drive via the interface while continuing to record the external video data stream for the video program segment.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein the method further comprises encoding at least a portion of the streaming video data.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein the method further comprises encrypting at least a portion of the streaming video data.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the method further comprises routing a second portion of the streaming video data to either an internal rotating storage drive or the at least one external rotating storage drive.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the method further comprises routing the portion of the streaming video data to the at least one external rotating storage drive when the storage capacity of the internal rotating storage drive is insufficient to accommodate the anticipated size of the portion of the streaming video data to be recorded.

20. (Previously Presented) The video recording system of Claim 1, wherein the at least one external rotating storage drive comprises two or more external hard disk drives.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[15]]~~17, wherein routing the portion of the streaming video data to the at least one external rotating storage drive comprises routing a first section of the streaming video data to a first external hard disk drive and routing a second section of the encrypted streaming video data to a second external hard disk drive when the

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storage capacity of the first hard disk drive is insufficient to accommodate the anticipated size of the portion of the streaming video data to be recorded.